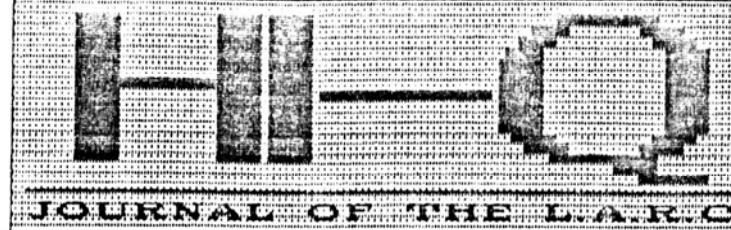


JUNE 1990

AMATEUR RADIO IN THUNDER BAY - ONTARIO

EDITED BY E.R.
BAUMANN VE3SNW

WRONG ADDRESS?
SUBSCRIPTION
PROBLEMS?
CALL
(807) 622-1216



SPECIAL FIELD DAY
NOTICE

JUNE 23RD - 24TH FIELD DAY 1990

the prez sez

The past few months have been fairly quiet, so this will be short. I have been concentrating on the garden when the weather permits. Once its planted, maintenance should be minimal. (HA, there's no such thing as a maintenance free gardening....ed).

One more Canadian Legion 10 Mile Road Race has come and gone and thanks to all the amateur radio operators that took part. I couldn't get involved this year so perhaps someone can drop us a note on how it all went.

The packet scene seems to be slowing down for the summer with not too much happening on VHF. HF always has a fair amount of activity but signals don't seem to be that great. Although I haven't had a great deal of time to spend on either VHF or HF, but the bands seem to be dead whenever I check.

Changes to the VE3TBR digi should have already been made and it should be operating as a local digi by the time you read this. It has been my experience that a 24 hour local digi is required and once the club digi is operating properly it should fit the bill.

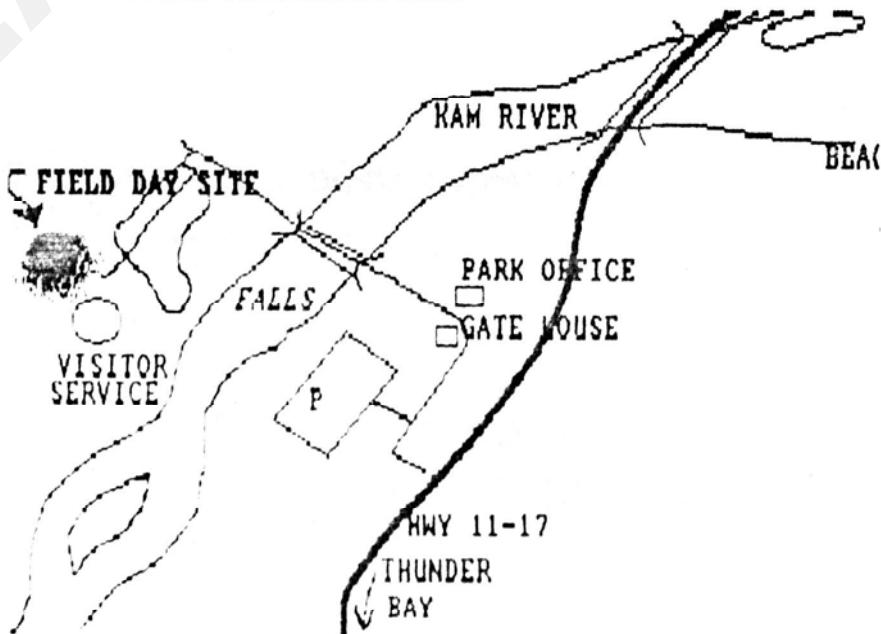
73's de Glenn VE3JAU
475-3516

field day

This year's FIELD DAY has been confirmed at Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park, but in a different area than two years ago. This area is located just behind the VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE and close to the park facilities. Any kind of vehicle can be driven in, the road is excellant, and just a short distance from the pavement. With your participation, FIELD DAY can be a successful event, remember it only comes once a year, don't miss it!!! Dave VE3DOM has again offered the use of the BIG diesel generator so there's enough power to run a multitude of stations. Saturday afternoon lunch will be picked up by the Club (don't want to miss a free lunch do you?...ed). Any licenced or non-licenced persons are welcome to come out and participate....give Gwen VE3TRE or myself a call if you plan to come so we can make some general plans.

See you there, Glenn VE3JAU
475-3516

KAKABEKA FALLS PROVINCIAL PARK



SWAP 'N SHOP

VE3KRV - AMERITRON AL1200 1.5 KW HF AMPLIFIER, WIRED FOR 220 V BUT CAN BE MODIFIED FOR 110V - \$1500

VE3JSC - DRAKE AMPLIFIER 2.5 KW WIRED FOR 220 V SEPARATE POWER SUPPLY -\$750

VE3JJY - TAPE DATA SETS FOR VIC20 OR C64 - \$15

VE3JJY - HM15 POWER/SWR METER SUITABLE FOR 300 WATTS - \$15

VE3JJY - HM104 POWER/SWR METER SUITABLE FOR 0 - 2000 WATTS - \$35

VE3XVK - 2 SETS SOLAR PANELS 18 CELLS OUTPUT 17 VDC - \$300.

VE3JJY - GEOS AND PAPERCLIP (WORD PROCESSOR) PLUS 2 GRAPHIC MASTERS & INSTRUCTIONS - \$35

WANTED

VE3BBS - COMMODORE COLOUR MONITOR SERIES 1700 - 1800

VE3JAJ - 48' TOWER

PLEASE CONTACT THE SELLER/BUYER DIRECTLY

CAMP 807 HAMFEST 1990

Just in case you have been living under a rock for the past several years, we will mention the famous CAMP 807 Hamfest which will be held at Aaron Provincial Park, 7 miles east of Dryden, Ontario, Friday, August 3 to Sunday August 5, 1990. This Hamcampfest is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio and their families. The park fees are \$1.50 per adult per night group camping area, \$10.50 per night unserviced individual sites and 14 bucks if you want power. There are no reservations, first come first served. The Dryden club has planned a bunch of activities like swimming, playground, hiking, neat radio stuff, and campfire games, skits, music! There's going to be a BBQ at 5 bucks per steak and a continental breakfast for \$2.50 per person. The talk in will be on the Dryden Repeater (147.24 +600). If you want to attend, scribble your name, call, address, phone, number of persons in party, camping arrangement preferred if available, number of persons attending the barbecue and ditto for the breakfast and send it to:

CAMP 807

Box 182

Dryden Ontario

P&M 2Y8 *This much fun ought to be illegal!*

ROOMERS

There is no truth to the rumour that the July club meeting will be held July 12th at about seven p.m. at Boulevard Park, on the north side of the Black Bay Bridge, so I don't want to see anyone there. And I don't want to see any of you having a barbecue there before the club meeting so leave all the stuff at home with your families. And the August meeting will not be out at Skip's place and you will not have any fun. So there. Weather permitting.

The following is a 'Ham Radio History'

From Austic ARC - Tnx VE3IY

4 Billion B.C. - Earth is a swirling ball of flaming gasses. Propagation is extremely poor.

1 Billion B.C. - First dry land appears. It is divided up into squares. County Hunters Club is formed.

500 Million B.C. - Second patch of dry land appears. First DXepidition. Credit is disallowed because of questionable licensing arrangement.

400 Million B.C. - Flowering plants and grasses evolve. Telrex invents first beam antenna but sales are slow because of lack of suitable support structures.

300 Million B.C. - First tree appears. It is immediately cut down, stripped of branches, placed in concrete base and named 'Telephone Pole'. Telrex sells first beam.

200 Million B.C. - Second beam is sold by Telrex. Installer falls from top of pole. First safety belt is sold.

100 Million B.C. - First mountain appears. Repeaters invented.

50 Million B.C. - It is decided by WARC that 'seek you' is too cumbersome to send on CW. Abbreviation 'CQ' is adopted.

4 Million B.C. - Humans replace swine as dominant species. The name 'Ham Operator' hangs on.

3 Million B.C. - Dugout canoe invented. Maritime Mobile net formed on 14.313 Mhz.

2 Million B.C. to 800 A.D. - Nothing much happens for a long time.

900 A.D. - Chinese invent gun powder. BY1AA is first 'Big Gun' DXer.

1790 A.D. - Ben Franklin invents long wire antenna. Ground switch also invented.

1961 A.D. - Sound repeater erected. First repeater group refuses to change frequency. First frequency co-ordinator appointed.

1986 A.D. - Amateur Radio Humor sinks to a new low.

VE3YQT..

As most of you are now aware the new antenna and heliax installation was completed on the repeater on June 19th. Installation was done by Lakehead Tower Erectors and completed in record time. Thanks to the following ground crew for all their assistance provided: VE3BCD, VE3OPI (and half-ton) VE3AUP, VE3LMG, VE3PHL, VE3JSC, VE3KRP (even the walk didn't dampen his spirits but we all wanted to see the 'Riveria' come up the hill). A special thanks to VE3KRV for his behind the scenes work on the ground kits and to the Repeater Committee. A request has been made to Thunder Bay Television for permission to mount a permanent UHF antenna at the 70' level for the Auto Patch but at press time, no reply had been received. The antenna taken down from YQT has proven to be in working order and once the radials are repaired it will put to work on TBR which will vastly improve the coverage on it. The need for a new antenna for TBR has now been eliminated thus saving the club an expense of approximately \$500.

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES

At present the group in Thunder Bay consists of some 53 licensed amateurs and while I have not been actively soliciting members if you are interested please get in touch with me for an application form. I will make a point of bringing some to the JULY general meeting.

The Fresh Air Triathalon is coming up on 27 July and I would like to try a new approach to feeding results into the finish line for this race. Both repeaters will be used and at least 12 operators will be required. Start time will be 8:00 a.m so no sleeping in for the crew that volunteers. It will consist of a 1 K swim, a 20 K road race, and a 80 K bike race. The route will be much the same as the Petrie Biathlon. i.e. Boulevard Lake and Lakeshore Drive. Coffee call at Robins, Hodder at 7:30.

The Wednesday night ARES net on YQT is holding its own and the check ins are constant. The net usually run from 7:00 until 8:00 and its a good place to pick up on the bits of gossip around town that dont get printed in HI-Q. It will continue to operate thru the summer. Remember, 3 check ins get you a certificate suitable for framing in the shack.

There has been some discussion around town of a Ham Campers Call on YQT and if we can find a net controller, it should not be too hard to set up. Anyone interested in taking on the task is invited to get in touch with me. It would run say 3 days a week at 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m or at times suitable to the controller.

FIELD DAY

As some of you have heard the contest end of the Field Day went extremely well. The operators ran 3A (or 3 rigs) for 21 hours out of the 24 hour contest duration. We accumulated over 1400 points without multipliers and by the July meeting I will have the totals for announcement. My thanks go first to VE3BCD who spent the better part of Wednesday evening before the contest overhauling the 4 EMO generators (not to mention hauling up and down of same from the basement) (Tks Laurie). Thanks to the operators who made the contacts, VE3JQ, VE3BQR, VE3KRN, VE3CK, and VE3AUP who really had the time of his 'ham career' on 15M Sunday morning. A rather respectable CW competitor too. Thanks also to VE3IY, VE3ARN, VE3XT and VE3KRP for help in assembling and raising the 'quad' and tower. The surprise of the event was running into VE7RC being run by VE3OTC at 3:00 a.m. Sunday morning and we all took time for a short () with John who sends his regards and best 73's to all in Thunder Bay.

CLUB NEWS

Ed, VE3KRP has plans and most of the programming done for a 10M mailbox at VE3FW. Further information as it develops and the method to access the drop. It should be fun and will let most of us into it. All you need is 10M and RTTY.

COMMENT

Being a confirmed QST ham (yuk!) I recently picked up a copy of 73 and was quite impressed. I hear some good comments about June's CQ also. Any one of you guys or girls out there getting rid of old magazines bring them to the club first, some else might take pleasure in reading some of the articles.

Until July 12th, Best 73's to all

VE3BBS

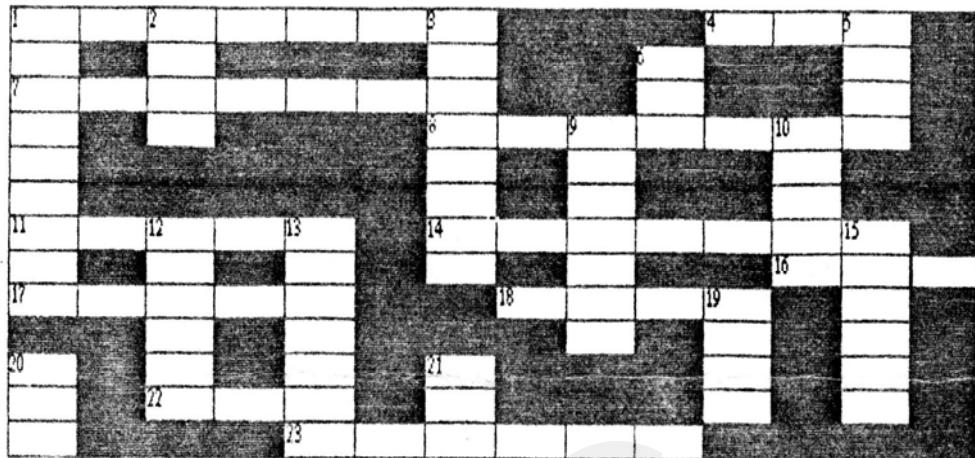
HI-Q

SUMMER

CROSSWORD

CONTEST

1990



HERE'S HOW TO WIN

Welcome to our first contest! Here are the rules and instructions:

Use this crossword puzzle outline and listen every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to repeater VE3YQT (147.06 Mhz) at 2000 hours, and the clue will be read out several times, one clue per day. After all the clues will have been read (if you miss a few I'm sure your friends will fill you in) fill in your name and address and stuff and get it back to me in a sealed envelope. At the following meeting we will draw an envelope, and the first correct one to be drawn will win a really neat prize. Perhaps we can even gather up some more prizes so we can have more winners!

This contest is open to all members and associate members of the **LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**.

All the entries must be in my possession by the start of meeting, and we can't be responsible for any that get lost in the bowels of Canada Post.

You can mail them to me at 736 S. Norah St, Thunder Bay, postal code P7E 1P7, please write the word "crossword" on the back of the envelope so I don't open it accidentally. Otherwise, hand them in at the beginning of the meeting.

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY RETURN TO---> ER.BAUMANN HI-Q EDITOR

736 S. NORAH ST., THUNDER BAY, ONT.

P7E 1P7

NAME _____ **CALL** _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

VE3YQT

Members of the L.A.R.C. have, over the years, expressed a desire of having a repeater that would provide reliable communications over the greatest range possible. VE3YQT was established in 1975 with a temporary machine on Mount Baldy. This tremendous site was acquired through the efforts of Club members. Duplexers were purchased later and a single collinear antenna was installed on the North face of CKPR-TV's tower at 350 feet. This antenna replaced a home-made system lower down the tower.

This location was chosen to provide the greatest coverage to the outlying areas on Highway 17 East and West, the Spruce River Road and resort areas to the west and south-west. Coverage to the city was maintained and south to Pigeon River, the repeater was still accessible.

Unfortunately, coverage to the Upper Peninsula was degraded because of the null imposed by the tower, but it was felt, at the time, that the W8s had gradually decreased their use of YQT because they had installed repeaters on the U.P. that gave coverage to Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as their own immediate areas. It was decided by the Repeater Committee, that, if necessary, a second small antenna could be installed on the south-side of the tower that would give access to the U.P. operators.

It has been felt by some that the antenna should be installed on the South side of the tower, but the only ones to benefit would be the few W8's who may like to get in touch with Thunder Bay. City coverage, in my view, would not be improved as there are currently few, if any, dead spots. Moving to the South side would, however, create problems to our present coverage of Highway 17 East and West, where our members operate. After all, the purpose of a repeater is to increase coverage of mobile stations. We have to retain what we have and possibly improve it to the U.P. and this would only require a single vertical and phasing harness.

Following the 1975 installation, which was only meant to be temporary, the construction of a modular repeater was commenced. Gradually the machine was pieced together with the basic repeater working quite well. But because of the unreliability of the telephone lines to Mount Baldy, U.H.F. linking was the easiest way to achieve an Auto-patch on VE3YQT. Equipment difficulties resulted in four different pieces of U.H.F. gear being tried, all of which used up enormous quantities of time and developing large frustrations which caused the enthusiasm of the constructors to wane. Also, with advancing technology, more reliable DTMF decoders were available, so these were experimented with, again resulting in delays in getting YQT up the hill.

Because the possibility if linking to outside repeaters was looming, it was felt that this possibility should be accomodated in the wiring of the basic repeater/control system. Redsign again took place, with the entire card cage being redone. All of these changes were made and the design set up so that other pieces of gear, mainly links, could be added or removed, without altering the main repeater frame.

Because Auto-patch was lagging on Baldy, a second group undertook the establishment of a second repeater, using computer control of all functions and have developed VE3TBR into an excellent functional machine, but with limited coverage.

Some discussion took place, shortly after the purchase of TBR by the L.A.R.C. of utilizing the auto-patch system on TBR via UHF link to VE3YQT. The designers of 'TBR felt it would be a difficult task for the present computer to handle (?) so was rejeected. Further discussion took place among concerned and knowledgeable members and a fufther change was made to the U.H.F. conception of Auto-patch for 'YQT. This was the "half-link", resulting in less equipment on both ends. Initial tests indicate that this was a feasible idea.

The entire system is currently close to completion and thorough testing has to take place to ensure the reliable operation of the Baldy side of things. Unfortunately, a lot of time has passed and the initial enthusiasm we had for the project is now taking a back seat to domestic and work duties. But we haven't given up.

Because of the passage of time, there is now talk of buying a commerccail box, computer controlled, Auto-Patch built in, directinal antennaa, etc. The tremendous amount of R.F. present at the CKPR-TV site could possibly result in RFI and intermodulation products that are difficult to deal with except through the use of top equipment and R.F. shielding.

The gear under construction has been designed and built with this in mind. Also the telephone line quality at Baldy has a history of poor quality and in order to avoid this potential problem, U.H.F. linking is probably the best way to fly.

VE3YQT is in an excellent location, with a good antenna cable and excellent duplexer. Virtually all of the equipment is on hand and operational. A tremendous amount of labour and brainstraining has gone into it, AND IT IS ALL PAID FOR.

The only thing lacking is free time to get it all together. To start into a wholesale change for the sake of change and at great expense is foolish. To throw out the efforts of a group of dedicated members is tantamount to moral destruction. If there is money available then look towards a series of linked repeaters across this part of Ontario, with VE3YQT the hub.



Bill Klemacki VE3XJ